

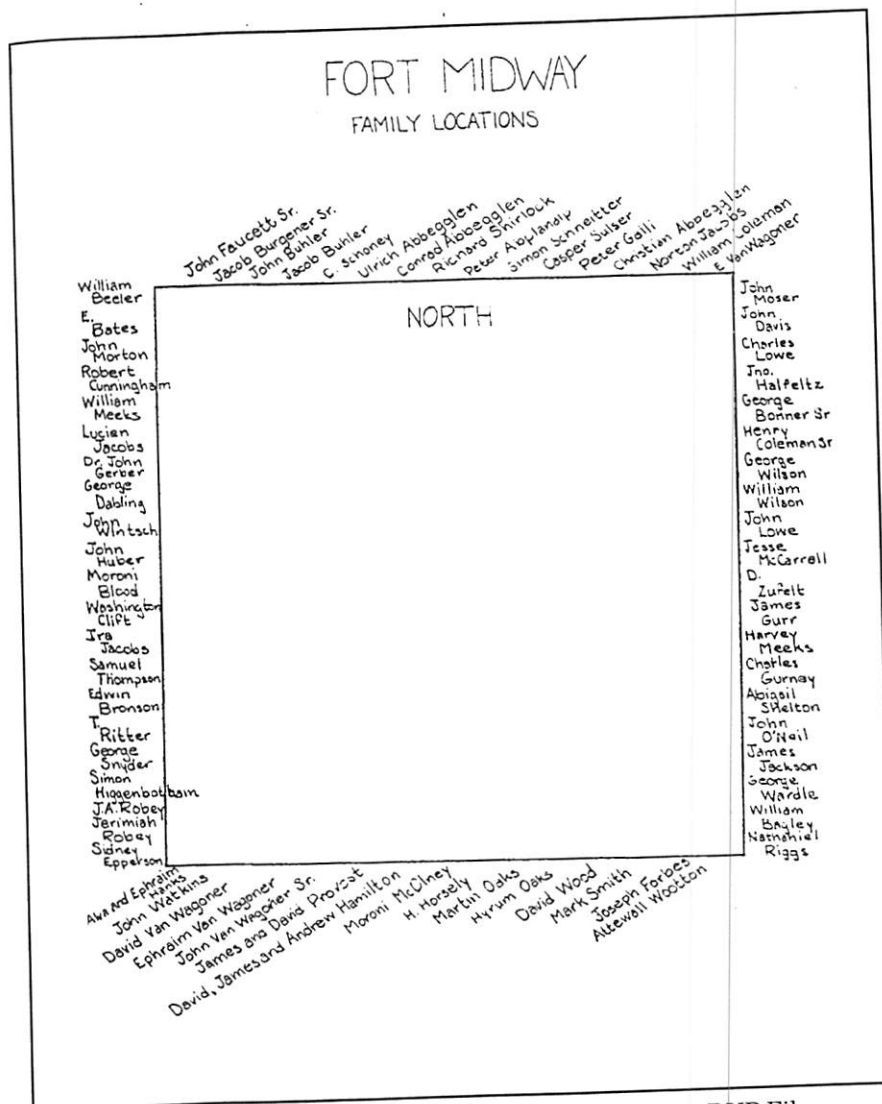
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ph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

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Fort Midway plan showing the location of each family. DUP Files.

MIDWAY

In the spring of 1859, a number of families (mostly from Utah County) settled on the west side of the valley along Snake Creek and established two small communities. The first settlement was a mile and a half south of present-day Midway; the second was about three miles north of the first. The northernmost settlement was known as Mound City due to the numerous nearby limestone formations later known as the "hot pots." According to Henry Van Wagoner, an early pioneer who came from Provo

and settled in the lower settlement in the 1860s, the following families lived in the lower settlement: David, Oscar, and Bill Woods, Jesse and Joseph McCarrell, Joseph Murdock, Mark Smith, Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey, John Watkins, George Wardle, Herbert Orsler, Fred and Stephen Bee, Andrew Hamilton, Isaac Bowman, Attewall Wootton, Simon Higgenbotham, Thomas Perry, and others.

The upper settlement (Mound City) was located at the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon. The first families of the upper settlement were George Bonner, Peter Shirts, and David Van Wagoner.

In about the year 1865, a company of United States soldiers camped in what is now known as Soldier Hollow. (The area will be one of the venues for the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympics.)

In 1866 the settlers received instructions from President Brigham Young to move together into larger settlements because of Indian hostilities. The upper and lower settlements agreed to move halfway or midway between the two settlements and construct a fort. The new town was named Midway, and the fort was located on what became the public square. The present Midway Town Hall, completed June 13, 1941, sits on part of the site of the old fort. The Hawthorne Camp of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers placed a monument commemorating the old fort on the corner of Main and 100 West streets in front of the present town hall.

According to Henry Van Wagoner, a sawmill was built in the 1880s on what is now called the mill flat at the Snake Creek tunnel. This furnished employment for many young men. The logging was all done by ox teams.

Van Wagoner states: "The pioneers had to clear the land and kill the snakes. The snake den, up by Zwiefel's place, was literally lined with rattlesnakes. The men would take a little pole with a hook in the end and pull the snake out by the head, then kill it and cut a slit down its back and take the oil out. The oil was very valuable. It was put in small bottles and used as a rubbing oil to cure earache, croup, stiff joints, etc."

The first schoolhouse in Midway was a log building which stood just west of the spot later occupied by the Second Ward LDS chapel. School was held there two or three years with Simon Hickenbottom as the teacher. The seats were made of slabs with peg legs. When the children became thirsty, they had to go outside and lie on the ditch bank to drink. The books they used were the Wilson Readers, and they wrote on slates.

The next school was the post office building. The school was used for dances, meetings, and all public gatherings. Attewall Wootton Sr. was the teacher. Sarah Woods taught summer school in what was later the granary of William Van Wagoner Sr.

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Sidney H. Epperson was the first presiding elder of the Midway Ward. Alva Alexander followed him, then David Van Wagoner, John Watkins, and Jacob Probst.

The first store was built by David Van Wagoner. It stood just west of where Guy Coleman's house later stood. It was a little frame building. Provisions for the store were hauled by ox teams from Heber City, Provo, and Salt Lake City.

The first blacksmith shop was owned and operated by John Davis and was located in the public square, west of where the Second Ward chapel was built.

In 1875 the German Hall was built at 144 West 100 North to accommodate the large Swiss population. During the 1860s and 1870s a large number of Swiss immigrants arrived with names such as Gertsch, Huber, Kohler, Probst, Zenger, Durtschi, and Abegglen. They had been encouraged by several LDS missionaries from the Heber Valley who had proselytized in Switzerland to leave their native country and move to Midway. The hall was built for a dance and music house by Andrew and Christian Burgener, Peter Abplanalp, and others. Andrew Burgener was one of the best musicians in the state at that time, and he organized a German band.

In about 1888, David Van Wagoner built the Van Wagoner Hall which was used for an amusement hall for many years.

The Midway Social Hall was built in 1898 on Main Street between 100 East and Center Street. It was constructed out of the native pot rock and, according to the historical information on the building, it is a "simple, rectangular structure which incorporates classical architectural features such as a symmetrical principal facade and pedimented lintels. It shares a wall with the building to its east built c. 1905 that was originally Hair's Barber Shop and Ice Cream Parlor. Between c. 1910-40, a window that existed in the shared wall was opened during functions at the Social Hall so patrons could be served ice cream and sodas. It is one of the few known remaining social halls constructed in a Mormon community during the second half of the 19th century. It was the primary meeting place for local activities and celebrations and for religious and town meetings from its construction until the building of the Midway Town Hall in 1940."

The many canyons in the mountains were named by the pioneers. Pole Canyon, above the cemetery, was named because of the poles that were taken out by the pioneers. North of that canyon is Sid's Canyon named after Sidney H. Epperson, the first man to haul wood out of it. Indian Spring west of the cemetery was named because an Indian died and was buried there. Lime Canyon, west of Schneitter's resort, was

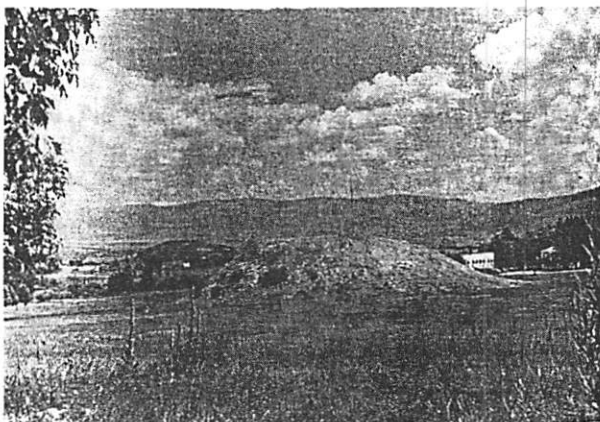


Luke's Hot Pots, Midway. This popular swimming place later became the Mountain Spa. Photograph from DUP Files.

named for the first lime which was burned there by Allen Martin. Snake Creek was named for the snakes living in the area. Twist Canyon was first called Jacob's Twist as he was the first to haul wood from there. Pine Canyon and Mahogany Ridge were named for the trees which grew in them.²²

Although livestock raising and farming were the principal industries in the early days of Midway, other enterprises developed as needed. The first sawmill in the valley was built by Peter Shirts on Snake Creek and contained an old up-and-down saw. It was later purchased and operated by Henry Coleman Sr. David Van Wagoner built a shingle mill at the mouth of the canyon and operated it for some time.

The limestone blocks or "pot rock" from the limestone mounds formed by the numerous hot water springs that flowed from the bench land around upper Snake Creek, provided rocks used for fences or shaped for building material, and many prominent and substantial buildings were made from it. The hot water in turn provided the basis for commercial



Schneitter's Hot Pots in Midway, later part of the Homestead Resort. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

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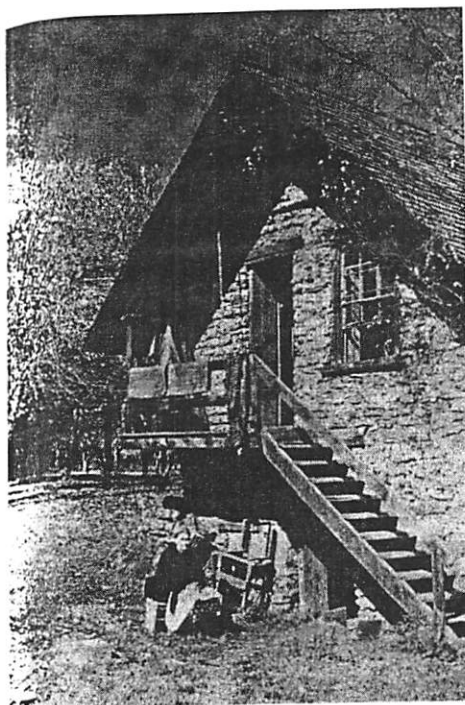
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Hot Pots in Midway, later part of the
sort. Photograph from Wasatch DUP
Publication.



Milkhouse in Midway built from the local
pot-rock. Photograph from Wasatch DUP
Publication.

then begin at the top and sink a shaft down to the tunnel and construct
his kiln in the solid rock."

Retail stores were developed. One was the Bonner Mercantile Store,
constructed in 1879. Another retail business was founded by Henry T.
Coleman and Simon Epperson in 1910 and was called the Midway Drug
Store. It was a confectionary and grocery outlet which operated until
1986. The nearby mines in Park City also provided employment to many
settlers.

The first post office was established in December 1864 with Silas
Smith as postmaster.

A creamery was built on the John Huber farm in Midway and still
stands today next to the Midway golf course. It was built from pot rock
which is seen on many of the old homes in the Midway area.

Today an important part of the economy is recreation. Deer Creek
Reservoir, Wasatch Mountain State Park, the nationally known Home-
stead Resort, golf courses, and other recreation facilities attract visitors
to the area. It has become an area of condominiums and vacation homes
for Utahns as well as for out-of-state visitors.

warm water swimming activities
and health resorts. Two of these
were Luke's Hot Pots (now the
Mountain Spa) and Schneitter's
Hot Pots (now the Homestead).
Both resorts were established in the
1880s.

William Van Wagoner manufac-
tured what was known as "Midway
lime." The *Wasatch Wave* of Novem-
ber 3, 1899, reported that he was
constructing a lime kiln at the
Snake Den. "The Snake Den is a
large mound of white limestone
from which most of the rock has
been taken for the manufacture of
lime up to the present time. Mr. Van
Wagoner was busy the other day
when a *Wave* representative called,
grading into the side of the mound,
and he explained that as soon as a
sufficient face was obtained, he
would run a tunnel into the hill and

Early Stores Around Wabash County:

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Stores: Midway

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✓ David VanWag

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S:

Picture of Bldg:

✓ Allen Groc & Meat

✓ Blind Watkins Store & PO

✓ Albert Kohler Appliances

Guy Coleman Store

who preceeded Guy?

Fri Mart & Gas Station

Midway Co-op

Early Stores Around Wasatch County:

Name of Store: _____

Location: _____

Owners: *David Van Wagoner* _____

Time in operation: *18 to 18* _____

Merchandise: _____

Pictures of Owners:

Picture of Bldg: